

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 25945 170948Z

63

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3453

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

DEA WASHDC

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DEA WASHDC FOR DEP ADM RODY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH, NL, HK, SN

SUBJ: DUTCH NARCOTICS OFFICER FOR BANGKOK

REF: A) THE HAGUE 4378; B) THE HAGUE 4985, C) BANGKOK 24448

SUMMARY. EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE APPOINTMENT OF A NARCOTICS ATTACHE TO DUTCH EMBASSY IN BANGKOK. END SUMMARY

1. THOUGH EMBASSY BANGKOK WAS ONLY INFO ADDRESSEE ON REFS A AND B, WE WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO AFFIRM OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL THAT A DUTCH NARCOTICS ATTACHE BE ASSIGNED TO THEIR EMBASSY IN BANGKOK.

2. THE PAST YEAR OR SO HAS SEEN AN ENCOURAGING INCREASE IN EFFORTS BY CERTAIN THEIR COUNTRIES (ESPECIALLY BRITAIN AND CANADA AS WELL AS OURSELVES) IN URGING THE THAI TO INCREASE THEIR ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS. THE ADDITION OF A DUTCH OFFICER CAN IMPORTANTLY REINFORCE THESE EFFORTS. THAI ACTION TO DATE, WHILE ENCOURAGING IN A NUMBER OF RESPECTS (RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF SEIZURES, SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES SEIZED, INCREASEE EFFECTIVENESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 25945 170948Z

OF THAI CUSTOMS, ETC.) CAN BE IMPROVED STILL FURTHER IF ADDITIONAL

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND EXPERTISE IS PROVIDED. A DUTCH ATTACHE, REPRESENTING A COUNTRY SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY HEROIN ORIGINATING IN THE "GOLDEN TRIANGLE", COULD CONTRIBUTE USEFULLY IN THIS RESPECT.

3. THE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF ALL OF THE THIRD COUNTRY NARCOTICS OFFICERS IN THAILAND (ASIDE FROM THE U.S., CANADA AND BRITAIN HAVE NARCOTICS ATTACHES, AND AUSTRALIA HAS A REGIONAL NARCOTICS OFFICER IN KUALA LUMPUR WHO VISITS BANGKOK FREQUENTLY) IS, IN OUR VIEW, TO SERVE AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE RTG AND THEIR HOME GOVERNMENTS ON NARCOTICS RELATED MATTERS, AND TO COORDINATE SUPPRESSION EFFORTS INVOLVING THAILAND AND THEIR HOME COUNTRIES. IN THE CASE OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ALREADY HAVE NARCOTICS OFFICERS IN THAILAND, THE INCREASED EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AND INCREASED COOPERATION IN THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT HAVE HAD IMPORTANT BENEFITS.

4. RECENT DUTCH EXPERIENCE WILL ILLUSTRATE THIS POINT. DURING THE FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION OF THE TWO DUTCH TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED ON AUGUST 30 (REF C), THAI CUSTOMS AND POLICE HAD ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS IN GAINING ANY SIGNIFICANT INTELLIGENCE FROM THE DEFENDANTS, UNTIL DUTCH NARCOTICS OFFICERS ARRIVED AND CONDUCTED THEIR OWN QUESTIONING. NOT ONLY WAS THE THAI CASE HELPED TREMENDOUSLY, BUT THE DUTCHWERE ABLE TO LEARN A GREAT DEAL ABOUT TRAFFICKING BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE NETHERLANDS WHICH THEY OTHERWISE MIGHT NEVER HAVE KNOWN.

5. THE FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE THAT A DUTCH OFFICER WOULD GAIN OF ASIAN DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND ACCESS HE WOULD HAVE TO UP-TO-DATE INTELLIGENCE CONCERNING TRAFFICKING TO THE NETHERLANDS, WOULD HAVE IMMENSE VALUE FOR THE DUTCH NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT. THERE WOULD BE THE ADDED BENEFIT OF BEING ABLE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH U.S. AND OTHER THIRD COUNTRY OFFICERS ALREADY IN BANGKOK. BANGKOK IS ALSO AN EXCELLENT LOCATION FOR EFFECTIVE LIAISON WITH NARCOTICS OFFICIALS IN SINGAPORE, HONG KONG, AND OTHER IMPORTANT ASIAN TRANSSHIPMENT POINTS. (FYI: DESPITE SUPERINTENDENT JOHNSON'S PRESS STATEMENT REPORTED IN REF B, WE SUSPECT THAT HONG KONG REMAINS AN IMPORTANT INTREPOT IN THE HEROIN TRADE THOUGH NOT AN ORIGINAL SOURCE.)

6. DEA BANGKOK REGIONAL DIRECTOR ADDARIO EXPECTS TO ARRIVE IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 25945 170948Z

NETHERLANDS, BEGINNING OCTOBER 4 AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO REINFORCE AND EXPAND ON THE ABOVE POINTS WITH EMBASSY THE HAGUE AND APPROPRIATE DUTCH OFFICIALS.
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